

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

SR-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00 DPW-01 IO-10 AGR-10 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCS-03 CU-04 EUR-12 SAJ-01 IGA-01 /116 W

----- 108420

R 040550Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 152

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 5963

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, CB

SUBJ: PROGRESSREPORT NO. 7 - TITLE II RICE PROGRAM -
PROGRAM RESULTS IN FOURTH WEEK

REF: PHNOM PENH 5893

1. SUMMARY:

A. THE FOURTH WEEK OF THE TITLE II RICE PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES AND NEEDY KHMER SAW THE U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONTINUE TO PICK UP MOMENTUM. MORE AND MORE NEEDY FAMILIES ARE BEING IDENTIFIED AND FED - UPWARDS OF 115,000 DURING THIS WEEK ALONE. IN THE REFUGEE CATEGORY, THE US AGENCIES REACHED OVER 62,000 PERSONS AND THE ICRC ADDED ANOTHER 12,000, ALTHOUGH THEIR TOTAL COVERED THE MONTH TO DATE, AND NOT JUST THE CURRENT WEEK. THE MINISTRY OF REFUGEES JOINED THE TITLE II RICE PROGRAM THIS WEEK BY DISTRIBUTING SMALL QUANTITIES OF EMERGENCY RATIONS TO NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES.

B. THE STRUGGLE TO GET TITLE II RICE TO REFUGEES IN THE BESIEGED CITY OF KOMPONG THOM CONTINUES WITH HOPE FOR A SOLUTION ON THE HORIZON. END SUMMARY.

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WM DISTRIBUTION OF PL 480 TITLE II RICE BECAME MORE SYSTEMATIC

DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 24-29. DATA FROM THE CANVAS OF THE CITY TO IDENTIFY THE CITY'S NEEDY FAMILIES CONTINUED TO FLOW REGULARLY (WITH ONLY MINOR INTERRUPTIONS) TO THE US VOLUNTARY AGENCIES - CARE, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE AND WORLD VISION RELIEF ORGANIZATION - WHO ARE CONDUCTING THE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MINISTRY OF REFUGEES AND AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. MINOR ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY, WHICH NOW ASSURES CONTINUOUS FLOW OF TITLE II RICE TO THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR ACTIVITIES.

3. DURING THE SIX DAY PERIOD ENDING MARCH 29, US VOLUNTARY AGENCIES REACHED OVER 115,000 NEEDY INDIVIDUALS THROUGH A VARIETY OF RICE DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS; NEARLY 50,000 WERE IDENTIFIED BY THE ONGOING CENSUS OF THE CITY'S MOST NEEDY FAMILIES; 1,215 WERE WIDOWS; OVER 100 WERE STUDENTS IN DAY SCHOOLS; AND 5,288 WERE EITHER PATIENTS OR FAMILIES OF PATIENTS RECEIVING TREATMENT AT CLINICS SUPPORTED BY THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. TWO PROGRAMS (FIGURES INCLUDED IN THE 115,000 ABOVE) INVOLVED COOKED RICE DISTRIBUTED IN 300 GRAM PACKAGES ON A DAILY BASIS TO 2,400 TENEMENT RESIDENTS (14,400 PERSONS FOR THE WEEK) AND 7,500 PATIENTS (OR FAMILIES MEMBERS) AT THE SOVIET-KHMER HOSPITAL (45,000 PERSONS FOR THE WEEK). ANOTHER ONGOING PROGRAM WAS CRS'S SOUP KITCHEN OPERATION, SERVING A MIXTURE OF TITLE II NUTRITION ADDITIVES AND RICE TO 30,000 CHILDREN (UP TO AGE 12) WHO RECEIVE FOOD TWICE A DAY (NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS ADDITIVE TO 115,000 ABOVE).

4. THE WEEK ALSO SAW SEVERAL THOUSAND REFUGEE FAMILIES IN PHNOM PENH AND A FEW IN ADJACENT PROVINCES RECEIVE A TWO-WEEKS'S OR MONTH'S RATION OF RICE (THE PERIOD FOR WHICH DISTRIBUTION IS MADE IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE VOLUNTARY AGENCY). THE THREE U.S. AGENCIES DISTRIBUTED TO SOME 62,175 REFUGEE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, WHICH PARTICIPATES IN THIS PROGRAM, HAS DISTRIBUTED RICE (A MONTH'S SUPPLY EACH) TO ABOUT 12,200 REFUGEES, HOWEVER, THESE FIGURES COVER THE MONTH THROUGH MARCH 29 AND NOT JUST THE CURRENT WEEK.

5. UNDER A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT TO FACILITATE THE REGISTRATION
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OF REFUGEES, THE MINISTRY OF REFUGEES HAS DRAWN AN INITIAL ALLOCATION OF 45 METRIC TONS OF RICE AGAINST AN ESTIMATED REQUIREMENT OF ABOUT 100 TONS PER MONTH. THIS RICE WILL BE PLACED IN MUNICIPAL REFUGEE OFFICES IN PHNOM PENH AND REGIONAL OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCES FOR EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION TO NEW REFUGEE FAMILIES AS THEY UNDERGO REGISTRATION. WHEN THESE FORMALITIES ARE COMPLETE, THESE FAMILIES ENTER CAMPS OR RECEPTION CENTERS WHERE U.S. AGENCIES OR ICRC MINISTER TO

THEIR SUBSEQUENT NEEDS.

6. CONTINUING EFFORTS TO REACH SOME 40,000 REFUGEES IN KOMPONG THOM HAVE BEEN PLAGUED WITH DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER, THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES. FROM MARCH 19 TO 31, CRS AND WVRO WERE ABLE TO MOVE 27 MT OF TITLE II RICE FROM PHNOM PENH USING AIR AMERICA AIRCRAFT AND CRS MOVED AN ADDITIONAL 60 MT BY COMMERCIAL CARRIERS. ARRANGEMENTS WERE COMPLETED ON APRIL 1 TO SUPPORT AN AIRLIFT OF TITLE II RICE FROM KOMPONG SOM ON THE GULF OF SIAM TO VARIOUS BESIEGED ENCLAVES, INCLUDING THOM. THE RICE WAS READY AT THE SOM AIRPORT THE MORNING OF APRIL 2, HOWEVER, WHEN THE AIR AMERICA PLANE ARRIVED IT HAD DEVELOPED AN OIL LEAK ON THE WAY FROM PHNOM PENH AND HAD TO RETURN TO SAIGON FOR REPAIRS. ON APRIL 3, TWO AIR AMERICA AIRCRAFT, ONE CARRYING A WVRO REPRESENTATIVE, DEPARTED PHNOM PENH FOR SOM TO BEGIN THE RICE LIFT. THESE AIRCRAFT ARE TO REMAIN AVAILABLE ON ALTERNATE DAYS TO WVRO AND CRS TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION. MEANWHILE, NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY WITH COMMERCIAL CARRIERS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF 100 METRIC TONS TO AUGMENT THE AIR AMERICA CAPABILITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, PL 480 TITLE 2, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM05963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750118-0151
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750481/aaaacvnh.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 5893
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <14 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROGRESSREPORT NO. 7 - TITLE II RICE PROGRAM - PROGRAM RESULTS IN FOURTH WEEK
TAGS: EAID, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006